

To: Tenley, Clancy[Tenley.Clancy@epa.gov]
From: Harrison, Melissa
Sent: Sat 8/15/2015 2:11:56 AM
Subject: Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Shiprock, New Mexico - August 14, 2015: Today, EPA has released additional water quality data from Aug. 7 to Aug. 9, 2015 on the San Juan River between Farmington and Shiprock, New Mexico. The August 7 data was collected for baseline purposes to understand river conditions at the Hogback monitoring location, prior to the impact of the upstream contaminants from the Gold King Mine release.

To assess the impacts of the release at the Gold King Mine, water quality samples were collected at four locations for 24 metals. Each surface water sample was analyzed for metals including arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury, aluminum, cobalt and others.

The validated results indicate the risk-screening level of recreational use is being met for all metals for the length of the river between Farmington and Shiprock, with the exception of lead on August 8. However, lead dropped below risk-screening levels on August 9.

Due to the highly variable conditions typical of this leg of the river, additional review will be conducted, and we will work closely with the Navajo Nation EPA on assessing drinking water, agriculture, livestock, and other critical water needs.

From: Tenley, Clancy
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 10:00 PM
To: Harrison, Melissa
Subject: Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

From: Strauss, Alexis
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 6:59 PM
To: Blumenfeld, Jared
Cc: Keener, Bill; Kao, Jessica; Manzanilla, Enrique; Allen, HarryL; Hiatt, Gerald; ghiattphd@outlook.com; Tenley, Clancy; Quast, Sylvia; Minor, Dustin; Woo, Nancy; Montgomery, Michael
Subject: Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Gerry indicates at Hogback lead at 250 micrograms/liter on the 8th, risk screening level 200 micrograms/liter on the 8th, thus amended below...see bold

From: Strauss, Alexis

Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 6:48 PM

To: Blumenfeld, Jared

Cc: Keener, Bill; Jessica Kao (Kao.Jessica@epa.gov); Manzanilla, Enrique; Allen, HarryL; Hiatt, Gerald; **Personal Email/Ex. 6** Tenley, Clancy; Sylvia Quast (Quast.Sylvia@epa.gov); Minor, Dustin; Woo, Nancy; Montgomery, Michael; Strauss, Alexis

Subject: **Deliberative Process/Ex. 5**

Team: for purposes of this interpretative statement to go out today, we have narrowed our focus to just the four stations, and solely the fully validated data of Aug 7 to 9. Gerry, please confirm the accuracy of what we have drafted – please reply asap...in particular, please confirm that for Aug 7, 8 and 9 at the four stations (SJLP, SJFP, SJHP and SJSR) we have no metals exceedances...or correct this.

Next steps: Tuesday we can have validated data from the Aug 10, 11 and 12 analyses and draw conclusions.

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Shiprock, NM – To assess water quality from the Gold King Mine spill to the Animas River, EPA collected samples at four locations along the Navajo Nation portion of the San Juan River between Farmington and Shiprock from August 7 to 9, 2015. Metals include arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury, aluminum, cobalt and others. The validated results indicate the risk-screening level of recreational use is being met for all metals for the length of the river between Farmington and Shiprock, **with a single exception: on August 8, lead levels were measured at 250 micrograms per liter, compared with the risk screening level of 200 micrograms per liter**. August 7 data was collected for baseline purposes to understand river conditions at the Hogback monitoring location, prior to the impact of the upstream contaminants from the Gold King Mine release.

EPA continues to monitor, analyze, and share data for the San Juan River in Navajo Nation as it becomes available. We will work closely with the Navajo Nation EPA on assessing drinking water, agriculture, livestock and other critical water needs.

Jared: next steps – Gerry Hiatt will continue to refine the data analysis this weekend with input from Water Division's Janet Hashimoto, feeding this to Harry Allen and Enrique. Enrique will task Ned Black with doing same for the agricultural risk-screening level data. Gerry will send tabular data he has to the team. Enrique notes via Clancy the validated data will be uploaded by the JIC in due course, so this (above) is the sole interpretive statement thus far, and begs the NN interest in agricultural uses of the water. **Please ensure on the Aug 7,8 and 9 fully**

validated data is the only data uploaded to the JIC today. Thanks all.